

Application for EDU 2011 Pilot Program

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

In August of 2011, CUSD 158 will be launching Huntley Virtual High School, a program that has been in the planning stages since the spring of 2010. Six courses will be offered in a *blended learning* option that will have over 50% of the content delivered online through an LMS such as Blackboard or Desire2Learn. Due to the nature of the online learning management software, students will need access to the internet at both home and school.

The purpose of these blended online courses is to increase learning opportunities for all CSD 158 students whether they are struggling or excelling. The blended learning model that has been established provides personalized, independent learning while maintaining the important relationship between teacher and student. The courses offered during the first year are junior/senior level courses that are varied between required courses, honors courses, and electives. At this point in time, enrollment in a blended course is optional. Students who opt to take the blended learning option will be provided with a mobile internet device and may be assessed a fee to cover the costs of internet service for that device.

The number of students that are living in poverty has tripled in the last 2 years at CSD 158. For this reason, coupled with the potential for this program to increase the options for all learners in CSD 158, it is necessary to provide a device with internet service for the participating students so that they are equipped for anytime, anywhere learning.

Given the current state of technology infrastructure, the simplest and most cost effective way to offer the participants both devices and connectivity is to enter a partnership with a cellular provider. Through this partnership, adequate coverage will be established so that students can access their course at home, at school, and anywhere else they may choose.

Training will be offered for teachers, students, and parents. Teachers will be participating software training, online instructional strategies training, and they will work during summer break to complete the course development process. There will be additional training for students on how to use their mobile internet device and how to navigate their online course. This training will be incorporated within the first week of class. Parents of participating students will be trained on how their students should be using their internet device and about the safety and security that we are providing them on the device.

FINANCIAL STATE OF CUSD 158:

Currently, CSD 158 has a free and reduced lunch rate that is hovering around 10% and an erate discount rate of 40%. The specific poverty level at Huntley High School is 9.284% While most CSD 158 students are not in need, the poverty rate has tripled in the last 2 years is the most rapidly growing demographic group of students in the district. Additionally, the current total of \$3.4 million owed to the District by the State of Illinois along with on-going funding loss and no estimation of when payment will be received, continues to present a major financial challenge.

COST ANALYSIS:

Cost of proposed program:

CSD 158 will be entering a partnership with a cellular provider to provide equipment and connectivity both in and out of school. Students will be provided a netbook or other mobile internet device that allows them to access both web-based coursework as well as software applications.

Total cost for 2011-2012 for connectivity for 150 devices	\$75,000
Additional cost for implementation and integration	\$10,000
Online Course Software	\$10,000
Teacher training and Curriculum Development	\$10,000
TOTAL COST	\$105,000

Cost effectiveness:

Below is a summary of the cost of purchasing laptops for student use, and providing in home connectivity, and adding infrastructure to Huntley High School to support wireless connectivity for students when they are in the building.

Total cost for hardware: 150 laptops	\$75,000
Wireless infrastructure changes at HHS	\$125,000
Online Course Software	\$10,000
Teacher training and Curriculum Development	\$10,000
At home connectivity for students	\$15,000
TOTAL COST	\$235,000

FUNDING:

Currently, CSD 158 has committed funds from the general technology budget for this program. Participating in the EDU pilot program would allow CSD to expand the training and curriculum development budget. Offering more training and going further with curriculum development will allow for easier expansion in year 2 and beyond.

CIPA Compliance: Through a partnership with the cellular provider, the devices will be protected by content filtering while using both the cellular network that the district is supporting, but also any outside wifi network the device may connect to. Additionally, to prevent waste and abuse, CSD 158 will be monitoring student use and restrict usage to specific sites and timeframes that are appropriate.

Use of these wireless internet devices will be restricted to the attached CSD 158 Acceptable Use Policy

CSD 158 - HUNTLEY HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION:

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Located in McHenry and Kane counties of northern Illinois, Consolidated School District 158 serves nearly 9,000 students in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12, residing in Huntley, western portions of Lake in the Hills and Algonquin and surrounding areas. The district employs over 1,000 staff members and is one of the fastest growing school districts in Illinois. Consolidated School District 158 is famous for its campus-concept idea in which the district transformed from a one elementary/one high school district to its current five elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school, located on three campuses: all built between 1997 and 2005.

For the first year of implementation, this program will serve approximately 150 students in grades 11-12 and 6 teachers. The following courses will offer a blended learning option.

- Recent Fiction
- US History
- Biology
- Honors Biology
- American Diversity
- Pre-Calculus

The curricular objectives for these courses are the same as they are for the courses in the traditional setting. CSD 158 is looking to demonstrate that a combination of face to face interaction with teacher and student combined with the ability to individualize instruction through online content will provide an enhanced learning experience for CSD 158 students.

The data we will be collecting will be student grades and achievement on common assessments for these courses. This data will be compared with students of similar ability in the traditional classroom taking the same course. We will also conduct a survey about students' thoughts and attitudes about learning with technology both before and after completing the course.

CSD 158 intends to expand this program increasing the offering of flexible online courses as well as expanding the technology use so that all students have anytime, anywhere access to differentiated coursework.

ONLINE COURSE PROGRAM CONTACT:

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